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## LICHENS OF BALTIMORE AND VICINITY.

(Abstract of Talk given at Sullivant Moss Society Meeting, Baltimore, 1908.)

CHARLES C. PLITT.

The collection consists of 148 specimens representing 30 genera, containing 107 species and their varieties. Nearly all have been collected in the immediate vicinity of Baltimore. In the naming of specimens I have depended a great deal upon our friend Mr. Merrill who has kindly looked at nearly everything I have collected. In the arrangement of specimens I have followed Engler and Prantl as best I could. A glance at the series will show that *Cladonia* alone is represented by 53 specimens, over one-third of the whole. This would seem to show that Baltimore is particularly well represented in this genus. This is true; but I think that this high showing is due to a great extent to our much better knowledge of the *Cladonias*, and when we have a more thorough knowledge of other genera there will also be a marked increase in numbers of specimens representing them. To illustrate: the 53 specimens of *Cladonia* represent 26 species and varieties, *Parmelia* will show 14 specimens, representing 12 species; now when we know *Parmelia* better there will also be a marked increase in its varieties.

A few words on our most common lichen will possibly be of interest. Which is our most common lichen will be hard to decide. If one limited his rambles to country roads alone, it no doubt would be *Parmelia Borreri*; if to open woods, *Cladonia sylvatica*; if along railroads, possibly *Baeomyces roseus*. All three are equally common and can surely not have escaped the eye of any tramp in this vicinity. Other more or less common lichens will be the following. Should one go along the banks of any of our rocky rivulets, one is sure to be attracted by the pretty masses of *Endocarpon minutum* growing on the rocks in the stream sometimes quite submerged. I remember the first time that I noticed it, I felt sure it was *Hydrotheria* for I had read that *Hydrotheria* was the only lichen that lived in that way, but somehow or other my plant would not fit the description, and I soon learned my brook-loving specimen was *Endocarpon*. Should one go through the woods the stains on the tree trunks will surely attract attention, closer examination will possibly reveal *Graphis* with its peculiar hieroglyphic-like markings, or *Pyrenula* with its numerous little elevations as if the bark were blistered, both of which are quite common. Another common lichen is *Lecidea albocarulescens* found on nearly every rock in our wooded areas. It belongs to the crustose type, and may be recognized at once by the peculiar oily-like appearance it gives to the rocks.

Of the *Cladonias* our most common is *sylvatica*, which is so closely allied to *rangiferina*, the true reindeer moss. How I have searched for true *rangiferina*—almost concluding it was not found here—finally, however, I found a little, but growing so sparingly, as if this climate did not suit it at all. Other common *Cladonias* are *papillaria*; *didyma* var. *muscigena*; *cris-tatella*, soon recognized by its beautiful red fruits; *pyxidata*, with its funnel-like stalks; and *verticillata*.

*Umbilicaria*, so easily recognized when once seen, is rather rare here; my first find of this genus being *U. Dillenii*.

*Peltigera*, that pretty green lichen with its very broad thallus is quite common. A walk through any wooded ravine is sure to be rewarded by the finding of one or more species of this interesting lichen growing over mosses or on the damp earth.

*Parmelia* as already stated is well represented by *Borreri* var. *rudecta*. Growing with it one very frequently finds *Pyxine soorediata*. They look very much alike. I remember collecting both together thinking them one species, but one soon learns to know them apart, besides a little scratch on the thallus soon tells that it is *Pyxine*, if the medulla is yellow, and *Parmelia* if it is white. One of my best finds, probably was the finding of *Parmelia pertusa*. It seems to be quite rare.

*Cetraria* in so many respects similar to *Parmelia* is also well represented. In our sandy pine-covered regions, I am sure of finding *ciliaris*, *aleuritidis*, and *lacunosa*; but in our hilly regions a pretty find is *Cetraria Oksiana*.

*Physcia* is represented by eleven specimens. The most common species here is I believe *tribacia*. It was the trying to determine *Physcia hypoleuca* which caused me to become interested in the study of lichens.

*Usnea* so easily recognized, is not over common and seems to be disappearing. It delights to grow in moisture laden regions and as these disappear by the cutting down of the trees, and the better draining of the land, *Usnea* also disappears.

I might dwell on other and less common species but will come to a close with this pretty little plea for the study of lichens by the Rev. J. S. Cutler: "When all the birds have left us and flown away to far off sunny climes; when the last frost-flowers have drooped and faded; and the last withered leaf has fallen in the silent woods; there still remains for the true lover of Nature a rare treat in the study of those faithful little children of the rough and rugged places—the lichens. No biting frost can frighten them; no bellying of the north wind can disconcert them nor disturb their calm serenity. Steadfast, undaunted, brave, sturdy, and faithful, they cling to the bare flinty surface where they abide, to prove that, in spite of winter and storm and desolation, there is still one warm spot in Nature's heart."

Baltimore, Maryland.

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#### CURRENT LITERATURE.

##### **La Flore Bryologique des Terres Magellaniques, de la Georgie du Sud, et de l'Antarctide, par Jules Cardot.**

JOHN M. HOLZINGER.

In 1901 Mr. Cardot published the "Flore Bryologique des Terres Magellaniques." This was based on the collections brought back by the Belgian Antarctic Expedition, and was briefly reviewed by the writer in THE BRYOLOGIST, Feb. 1902, p. 28. The present work appearing in small quarto form at Stockholm, 1908, is part 8 of Vol. IV, Botany on the Reports on the Swedish South Pole Expedition (Schwedische Südpolar Expedition) of which so far